

Continuing the Family Tradition

By James Jennings, Outreach Forester, Alabama Forestry Commission

A long tradition of owning forestland continued in the Agnew family when Tierre Agnew of Fayette County purchased 62.5 acres in 1995. Like his father, Delmus Agnew, Tierre wanted to own and manage forestland.

Raised in a close-knit family, Tierre Agnew spent his primary years on his parents' land in Fayette County. It was while growing up here that he had such wonderful childhood memories. After graduating from Hubbertville High School in 1981, he enlisted in the Navy. Remembering the serene atmosphere of his hometown, Tierre made a conscious decision that wherever his endeavors took him, he would ultimately return home to be near his family. That objective was eventually reached as planned. He served his country for over 22 years, and in March of 2004 Tierre retired from the Navy, returning home to Fayette County.

During his years in the service, Tierre had a life plan and his main aspiration was to purchase land. However, he did not wish to just own land, he wanted to manage it properly and enjoy it. After purchasing land from the Jenkins family, he contacted several natural resource agencies to learn about available opportunities. Still enlisted in the Navy and stationed in Florida, most of these contacts were handled by phone and mail. The Alabama Forestry Commission gave him information about management options and cost-share programs. As an absentee landowner, his management choices were



As his father did for him, Tierre Agnew hopes to instill the love of owning and managing forestland into his own son, Christopher.

limited. After reviewing the options, Tierre decided to manage a healthy forest for saw timber production to supplement income potentials, wildlife enhancement, and recreation. These objectives are ideal for absentee landowners because the practices are less intensive as well as financially feasible.

Tierre immediately started the process to bring about the necessary adjustments on his land. The property consisted of a total of 58 acres of forestland, 1 acre of wildlife openings, a 1-acre pond, 2.5 acres of power line easements, and a home site. During leave from the Navy, he and his father began making improvements. To make timber production more economical on the forestland acreage, the stands had to be harvested and re-established. In 2002, 36 acres of low-quality hardwood that had been high-graded were harvested for conversion into a pine plantation. The stand was chemically and

mechanically site-prepared. Next, second generation loblolly pine seedlings were planted on a scheduled rotation of 30 years. The tract also has an 11-year-old planted pine stand on 14 acres. A 7-acre stand of upland hardwoods will remain in its natural state for wildlife habitat. Finally, there is also an immediate plan to renovate and enhance an old cattle watering hole into a well-managed pond for recreational fishing.

After completing several management objectives, Tierre was recognized for his accomplishments. County Manager

John Harbison nominated him as a TREASURE Forest landowner in March of 2003, and he became certified that April.

Tierre Agnew accomplished his dream of returning home and being close to his family. He also accomplished another important goal, to continue the family tradition of owning and managing forestland. As with many projects, the work is never done . . . forestland management is a continuous process. Since he now has more time to work on his land, Tierre plans to make more improvements. His father also continues to assist him with management activities as his property is located just across the road. Perhaps this tradition will be passed down to Tierre's son. Will Christopher be the next generation of Agnews to own and manage forestland? 🌲